



**MAYES**

By the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deans, and their Officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and to all spiritual persons. And also to all Justices of Peace, Justices, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Constables, Churchwardens and Headboroughes: And to all Officers of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes corporate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects whatsoever they be, aswell

with in Liberties, as without, to whom their presents shall come, greeting:

WHEREAS we are credibly given to understand, aswell by the humble supplication and petition of our poore distressed Subject Robert Lawe, Vicar of the Mother Church of Saint Maries, in our Borough of Huntingdon, and County of Huntingdon, together with a Certificate from our true and loyall Subjects the Bailiffs and Burgesses thereof, and Thomas Beard Doctor of Divinity, and one of our Chaplains, as also by another Certificate under the handes of our right trusty and welbelovéd Oliver Lord Saint John, Thomas

Maples Esquire, our high Sheriffe for our Countie of Huntingdon and Cambridge, Sir Oliver Cromwell, Sir Robert Paine Knights, Edward Giermin Doctor of Divinity, Robert Audley, and Thomas Healy Esquires, Justices of the Peace within our foresaid County of Huntingdon, That our said poore Subject Robert Lawe, having all his life time bene a painefull and industrious person in his calling, and a man of honest life and conversation, is now fallen into great want and poverty, by reason of a lamentable and fearefull fire happening on the first day of July last past about midnight, which consumed and burnt downe to the ground not onely his dwelling House lately built, together with all his Household stuffe therein being fully furnished, and all his Books and Writings of good moment, with great store of Lumber ready squared, which he had provided for the building of other Houses, Amounting in all the whole losse to the value of Two hundred pounds and bywards: but also the whole Towne and people in their Beds was in great danger to have bene consumed, had not the Countrey Shepherds discovered the same and raised the Towne, to the bitter bemoaning of our said poore Subject, who before this untimely accident lived well, but hath now lost in a moment that little estate which with great care and travail all his life time he had saved together to relieve himselfe, his poore Wife and Children in his latter dayes, who being now more upon Threescore yeares and fleshy, is not able to take that paines in his vocation for his living as heretofore. And therefore he hath most humbly besought Us to commiserate his poore estate, and to commend his wants unto the charitable consideration of all our loving & wel disposed Subjects within certayne Countiees hereafter mentioned, not doubting but that all good Christians well weighing with themselves the uncertainty of mans estate in this world though these inevitable accidents, will be ready and willing as feeling members one of anothers misery, to extend their charitable contributions towards the reliefe and comfort of their poore afflicted byother in this his great necessity, none knowing how soon nor whose chance may next happen into the like calamity.

It is therefore, That of Our especiall Grace and Princely Compassion, We have given and granted, and by these our Letters Patents, doe give and graunt unto our said poore Subject Robert Lawe, and to his Deputy and Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, full power, licence, and authority to aske, gather, receive, and take the Almes and charitable benevolence of all our loving Subjects whatsoever inhabiting within our Countiees of Bedford, Essex, Bedford, Buckingham, Southampton, Leicester, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Suffolk, Norfolk, Lincoln, Poole, Nottingham, and Derby, with our Cities of Peterborough, Norwich, Lincoln, and Poole with our University of Cambridge, and Isle of Ely, with our Towne and County of Kingston upon Hull, and our Towne of Nottingham. And in all Townes Corporate, privileged places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places whatsoever within our said Countiees and not else where, for and towards the new building of his said House, the recovery of his losse, and the reliefe and comfort of our said poore Subject, his Wife, and fine Children.

WHEREFORE we will and Command you and every of you, that at such time and times, as the said Robert Lawe, or his Deputy or Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, shall come and repaire to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to aske and receive the gratuities and charitable benevolence of our said Subjects, quietly to permit and suffer them so to doe, without any manner your lets or contradiotions, And you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curats, for the better stirring up of a charitable devotion, deliberately to publish and declare the Tenor of these our Letters Patents, unto our said Subjects upon some Sabaoth day, when as the same shall be tendered unto you. Exhorting and perswading them to extend their liberall contributions in so good and charitable a cause. And you the Churchwardens of every Parish, where such Collection is to be made (as aforesaid) to collect and gather the Almes and charitable benevolence of all our loving Subjects, aswell Strangers as others, and what shall be by you so gathered to deliver it to the bearer or bearers of these our Letters Patents and to no other person, when as thereunto you shall be required. And lastly, whereas we are informed of the great abuse which is now crept in amongst these poore people, who sell their Licences unto some other person, whereby mens charity goeth not the right way, but unto such as deserve it least: That from henceforth our will and pleasure is, that if it may appeare unto you or any of you, that the said Robert Lawe, hath contracted any bargains, or made or shall make sale of these our Letters Patents, whereby the benefit should passe from him to any other person, That thereupon these our Letters Patents shall be void and of none effect. Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or Provision, heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

In witness whereof, We have caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of One whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witness our selfe at Westminster, the Nineth day of January, in the Eighteenth yeare of our Raigne of England, France, and Ireland: And of Scotland the Four and Fiftieth.

1620.

**Steward.**

God save the King

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Cum Privilegio.